

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Mission

1635 Shaffer Road  
Atwater, California 95301

**Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS**

**NEW MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA**

**ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, ARCHBISHOP OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE (389)**

## Activities and Events this Week

Tuesday 27	Tuesday Morning Book Study Choir Rehearsal	10:30am 6:00pm
Wednesday 28	Adult Education Class	6:00pm
Saturday 31	Great Vespers and Confessions	5:00pm

## Announcements

**St. Eugene Camp** is on track for June 21-27 at the Armenian Camp in Dunlap. Sunday January 25 we will take a collection to defray the cost for the camp counselors. Counselors often times take a week vacation and drive long distances at their expense to help at the camp. This is the only youth focused event in our mission and in the Central Pacific Deanery. Your generous contribution allows you to be a part of the great experience for the kids.

**Theophany** is house blessing season. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like your home blessed.

**Sign up in the hall** if you would like to sponsor flowers to beautify our church. See Diane Holmes for any questions.

**The Joseph Czyzowsky Bookstore construction** continues as we will be ordering more books and gift items. We are hoping the grand opening will be soon.

**Please feel free to contact Fr. Lawrence** for questions or to visit. 719-347-1211  
Rector@StMaryMagdalenechurch.org  
Welcome to all visitors!

**Great Lent Confessions** – Everyone, whether you confess regularly or only once per year, will need to make a confession during the Lenten season. I am giving a time window from Sunday of Zacchaeus to Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please avail yourself to this huge window to make a confession as part of our season of repentance. Please do not ask me to hear confessions after April 3<sup>rd</sup> and until after Pascha, as I am likely to say no.

**Right to Life Sunday** – A number of the brotherhood attended the **Walk for Life** in San Francisco yesterday. We marched with thousands of others who are completely against the slaughter of our unborn. I have told you of my past experiences in hearing confessions from Orthodox women and non-Orthodox women, one time in a grocery store, and the horrible pain and guilt they feel even decades later from an abortion. This is because the killing of our unborn and the supposed freedom, and “mastery of their bodies” is all based on a lie that comes directly from Hell itself. I invite you to do your own research into the founding of Planned Parenthood and its champion, Margret Sanger. She was a racist and enthusiastic supporter and practitioner of eugenics. Her goal with Planned Parenthood was to greatly reduce the number of black women reproducing, thus no surprise as to where the vast majority of Planned Parenthood clinics are located. She also had close ties with Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany and served as an advisor to the Nazi eugenics program in Germany where not only Jews were targeted by physically and mentally handicapped people as well.

God is the fashioner of life, creating us in His image and likeness. The grace and blessing of Motherhood is grounded in the life of the Virgin Mary who gave birth to the One who could not be contained, God’s only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. As Orthodox Christians we affirm that life is the most precious gift from God and to extinguish this gift based on “our weak human needs” cannot produce joy and blessings from God. It can only place our women into a state of Hell. Which then necessitates healing. We correctly judge the evil of abortion and at the same time we do not lay judgment on our women who underwent an abortion. They desperately need healing from Christ, and on Earth, that is done by the Church.

The promoters of abortion and those who offered a counter demonstration in San Francisco are filled with anger and hate against those who seek to protect what God has bestowed on our beautiful women. Evil while sometimes disguised as good, will always be exposed as to the lie that it has always been. To call evil good and good evil is blaspheming the Holy Spirit. What better way for the devil to attack humanity – lies and murder!

To our women who have undergone abortion(s), please know that God so desperately wants to heal. He wants to make whole that which has been injured and broken. Christ’s Holy Church stands ready to help all who are in need of His healing.